NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS

BRUSH MANAGEMENT

(Acre)
CODE 314

SPECIFICATIONS APPLICABLE TO BRUSH MANAGEMENT 314:

Application of Brush Management 314 shall adhere to the Wyoming NRCS Conservation Practice Standard in the Field Office Technical Guide.

A treatment plan shall include the following information:

1. Location - Field Numbers, and Map or Sketch of areas treated and areas excluded.
2. Acres and how determined.
3. Date of practice application.
4. Species controlled and species benefited.
5. Methods of control
   - For mechanical treatment methods, plans and specifications will include types of equipment and any modifications necessary to enable the equipment to adequately complete the job. Also included should be:
     Operating Instructions
     Techniques or procedures to be followed
   - For chemical treatment methods, plans and specifications will include:
     Herbicide name
     Rate of application or spray volumes
     Acceptable dates of application
     Mixing instructions (if applicable)
     Any special application techniques, timing considerations, or other factors that must be considered to ensure the safest, most effective application of the herbicide
     Reference to label instructions
   - For biological treatment methods, plans and specifications will include:
     Kind of biological agent or grazing animal to be used
     Timing, duration, and intensity of grazing or browsing
     Desired degree of grazing or browsing use for effective control of target species
     Maximum allowable degree of use on desirable non-target species
     Special precautions or requirements when using insects or plants as control agents
6. Protection provided during improvement period.
   - Areas receiving over 10 inches average annual precipitation where desirable grasses make up 25 percent or more of the total annual production will have complete protection from grazing by domestic livestock from the beginning of the growing season until seed maturity of the key forage species. When prescribed burning, mechanical or biological methods are used this protection period will be during the first growing season following treatment. Where 2, 4-D LVE or tebuthiuron is used on big sagebrush, this protection period may be either during the year of treatment or, preferably, the year following treatment. The NRCS conservationist will determine the protection period needed to provide the greatest benefit to the desired species.

   - Areas receiving less than 10 inches average annual precipitation or where desirable grasses make up less than 25 percent of the total annual production will have complete protection from grazing by domestic livestock from the beginning of the growing season until seed maturity of the key forage species. This protection period will be both during

the year of treatment and again the year following treatment. The NRCS conservationist will determine the deferment period needed to benefit the desired species.

- Drought following treatment, low vigor of desirable grasses, invasion of the treated area by undesirable plants, and other abnormal conditions may make it desirable to extend the deferment beyond the minimums required under conditions. If any of these conditions exist, the NRCS conservationist will encourage the cooperator to extend the deferment periods.

7. Other useful comments.
8. Date of notification to Wyoming Game & Fish Department and completed Job Sheet WY-ECS-42.
9. Date and signature.
   (Job Sheets WY-ECS-21 or WY-ECS-22 are applicable to this practice)
   - Compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including permits, permissions, or notifications is required.
   - Brush management on shallow soils or sites with less than 25% canopy cover shall not be recommended unless large numbers of young brush plants are already present and will dominate the plant community at 25% or more canopy cover by the end of the planning horizon.
   - The use of reduced rates of chemicals that will still obtain about 50% reduction of target species and also meet soil protection, erosion control, and other goals, including the landowners, shall be encouraged whenever feasible.
   - Conservationists will encourage cooperators to fully consider present and future land use opportunities, including expected effect on wildlife habitat, potential recreation use, and aesthetics; determine that the landowner understands the technical requirements, possible hazards, costs and the kind of grazing management and maintenance needed to insure success; and help land users understand the environmental impacts of brush management, both positive and negative, onsite and offsite.

Additional Specifications applicable to Chemical Treatment

1. Specifications for the kind of chemical, methods, and time of application will be in accordance with the label and the latest Wyoming Weed Control Series published by the Agricultural Extension Service, University of Wyoming. Amount of chemical will not exceed the label but may be less than the label if published in the Wyoming Weed Control Series. Dates of application can vary from year to year, but shall coincide with the growth stage(s) of the target species(s) specified by the appropriate Wyoming Weed Control Series.

2. Caution cooperators using chemical herbicides as follows: ***CAUTION: If pesticides are handled or applied improperly, or if unused portions are not disposed of safely, they may be injurious to humans, domestic animals, desirable plants, and fish or other wildlife; and they may contaminate water supplies. Drift from aerial spraying can contaminate nearby crops and other vegetation. Follow the directions and heed all precautions on the container label.***

3. Aerial Application - Flight must be low enough to obtain proper distribution and coverage and be made when wind velocities are low enough to prevent drift into sensitive areas. Where water is used as a carrier, commercial wetting agents shall be used according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Additional Specifications applicable to Mechanical Treatment
Dates of Treatment, by Species, using mowers, choppers, beaters, bulldozers, blades, rails, or other suitable equipment, will be as follows:

Big sagebrush - Before seed set in late summer to early fall, if adequate soil moisture is available. Grubbing or blading in the spring with adequate soil moisture can also be used to uproot big sagebrush.

Greasewood - Dormant season. May require two or more years of treatment for desired control.

Juniper - Late summer to early fall.

Pricklypear - Dormant season by blading at or just below the surface into windrows. Turning windrows over the next year will improve results. Expect no more than 75-80% reduction after 5 years.

Rabbitbrush - Dormant season. May require two or more years of treatment for desired control.

Additional Specifications applicable to Biological Treatment
Grazing with different kinds of livestock or during critical growing stages of plants or hoof action associated with winter feeding of livestock can effectively reduce some brush species. Host specific insects can also reduce some brush species. Specifications for biological treatment will be developed based on the individual problems of the area, and available research data.

Additional Specifications applicable to Burning Treatment
Refer to Prescribed Burning Conservation Practice Standard.